

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-20 PRS-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /088 W

----- 013264

R 090807 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2480

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KAMPALA 1577

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ETRD UG US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BELL HELICOPTER TEAM CALLS AT EMBASSY

REF: KAMPALA 1525; STATE 85360

1. AMERICAN BELL TEAM CONSISTING OF TEST PILOT HERRON AND SERVICE REP DUNN CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 9 TO REGISTER AND DISCUSS LOCAL SITUATION. THEY ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED ADVICE ON LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION AND PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN UGANDA IN GENERAL. HERRON (PILOT) WILL REMAIN UGANDA 3 MONTHS AND WILL BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER PILOT. PILOTS WILL DO 3- MONTH TOURS HERE FOR 1 YEAR TOTAL. SERVICE REP WILL REMAIN FULL YEAR AND MAY BRING FAMILY IN SEPTEMBER.

2. PILOTS WILL TRAIN 5 UGANDANS, 4 FROM POLICE AND ONE FROM AIR FORCE. ACCORDING TO BELL REPS POLICE AIR WING HAS ONLY ONE PILOT AT PRESENT. HE FLIES PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER. THEY UNWARE HOW MANY HELICOPTER PILOTS THERE ARE IN AIR FORCE.

3. HERRON HAS BEEN ASKED TO FLY RECENTLY ACQUIRED ITALIAN BELLS BUT HAS REFUSED, POINTING OUT THAT HIS COMPANY INSURANCE PROHIBITS HIM FROM FLYING ANYTHING NOT MADE ENTIRELY BY US BELL. NO EVIDENCE OF INSTRUCTORS OR MECHANICS FOR ITALIAN BELLS.

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4. SERVICE REP SAID CONDITION OF HELICOPTERS STILL ON CIVILIAN REGISTRY QTE NOT BAD END QTE. TWO HELICOPTERS WERE REMOVED FROM CIVILIAN REGISTRY LAST YEAR AS THERE WAS NO ENGINEER HERE TO CERTIFY THEM. THEY ARE STILL BEING FLOWN BY ARMED FORCES. SERVICE REP STATED THAT AFTER REQUIRED MAINTENANCE AND CERTIFICATION THEY WOULD BE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN REGISTRY.

5. BOTH PILOT AND SERVICE REP COMMENTED THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE FRICTION BETWEEN AIR FORCE AND POLICE INVOLVED IN HELICOPTER TRAINING. TEAM HAS BEEN TREATED ROYALLY SINCE ARRIVAL AND WILL SOON MOVE FROM LAKE VIC HOTEL INTO GOU- SUPPLIED HOUSE IN ENTEBBE.

KEELEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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